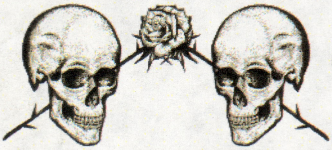
# FILLER

PITTSBURGH ANARCHIST
NEWS & ANALYSIS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2
SUMMER 2022

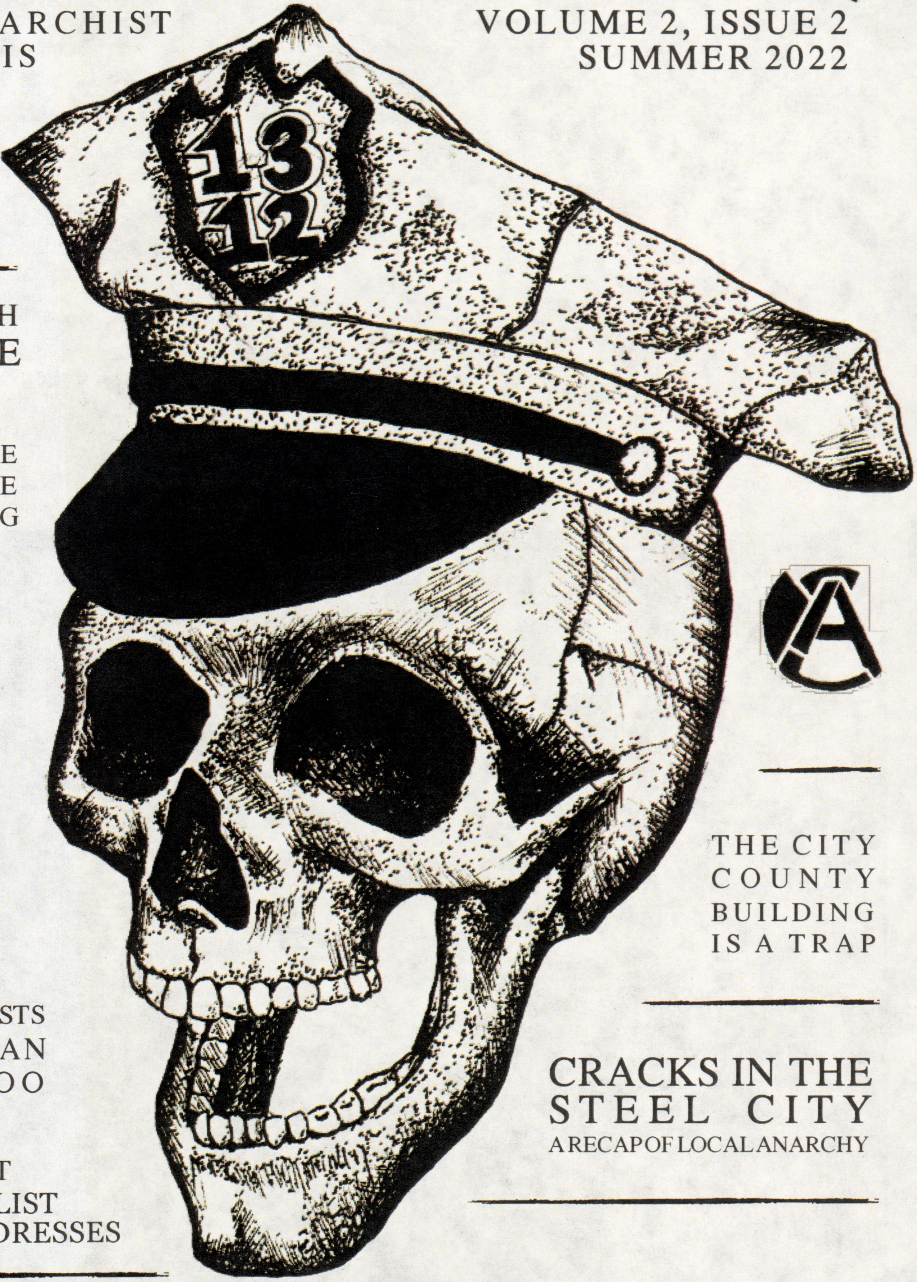


AN INTERVIEW WITH
ROTHKO HOUSE

REPRESSION IN THE
AFTERMATH OF THE
GEORGE FLOYD UPRISING

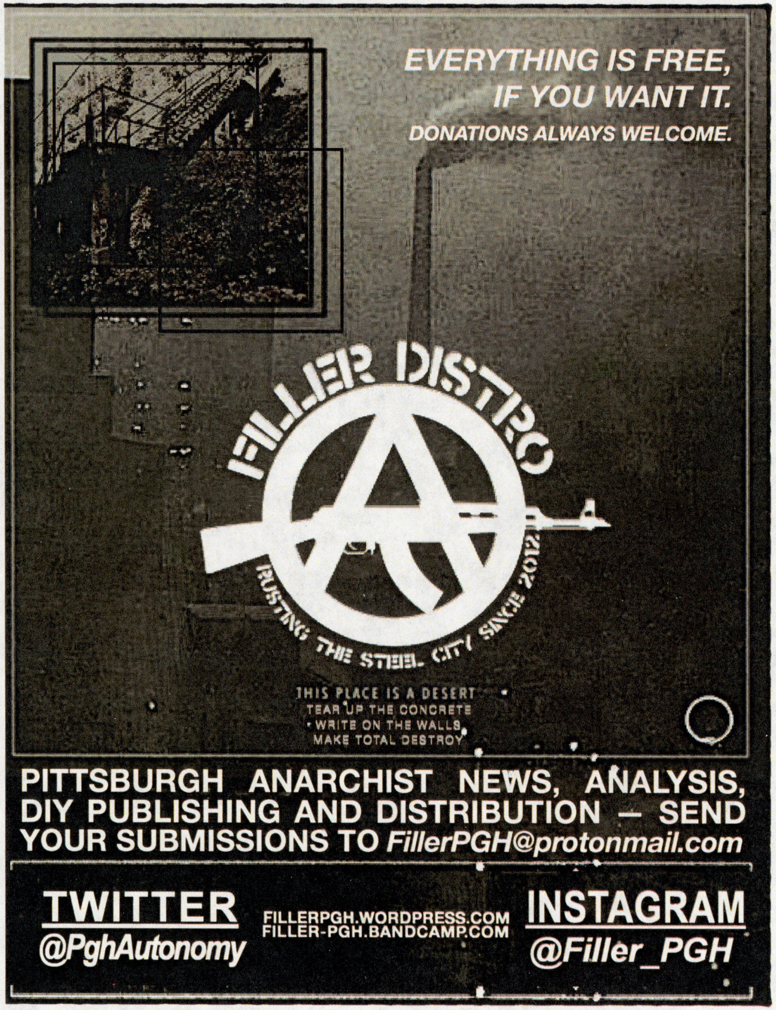
DEAR WESTERN LEFTISTS
BROWN PEOPLE CAN
BE FASCISTS TOO

PITTSBURGH'S LEAST
WANTED: A BRIEF LIST
OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES




THE CITY
COUNTY
BUILDING
IS A TRAP

CRACKS IN THE
STEEL CITY
A RECAP OF LOCAL ANARCHY




Check out our bandcamp for local anarchist punk releases and to mail-order order bulk zines and stickers.

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★ = Pharmacy we've heard good things about!

# WHERE TO GET NALOXONE?

**Ask your local pharmacist: Do you have naloxone? Do you participate in the standing order? (You don't need prescription from a doctor.) You DO NOT need to explain WHY you need naloxone. Hand them your insurance card, or ask for lease expensive type if you pay cash.**

For additional listings of participating pharmacies, go to: Allegheny County Health Dept: http://www.achd.net/overdoseprevention/index.html Or http://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu/find-naloxone/

**Prevention Point Pittsburgh**
412-247-3404 www.pppgh.org or find us on Facebook Syringe Access Sundays 12-3pm,
5913 Penn Ave in East Liberty (PATF), Pittsburgh

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- **UPMC Presbyterian Pharmacy** 200 Lothrop, Pittsburgh 412-864-0900

- **Hillman Cancer Center** Pharmacy– 5115 Centre Ave, Room AG 301, Pittsburgh 412-623-5999
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- **Lincoln Pharmacy** 232 North Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15209 (412) 821-2379
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- **Allegheny County Health Dept. 3441 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh 412-578-8081**
- **Walgreens** – 133 W 8TH AVE in Homestead PA, 412-461-9782 ★
- **Adzema Prescription Pharmacy** 8105 Perry Highway Pittsburgh, 412-364-7000
- **Medicine Shoppe** 2665 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, 724-375-5561
- **Hoffman's Drug Store** - 536 Franklin Ave, Aliquippa 724-375-4111
- **AHN Pharmacy** – 12311 PERRY HWY, WEXFORD, (878) 332-4118
- **Hometown Apothecary** – 807 3rd Avenue, New Brighton, 724-891-7383
- **Salem Crossroads Apothecary** - 195 Sheffield Dr Ste B, Delmont, (724) 468-5565
- **Medicine Shoppe** –709 Ligonier St, Latrobe,(724) 539-4565;
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- **Walgreens** – 4900 Library Rd. Bethel Park 412-854-9801
- **Rite Aid** –1956 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, United States Phone: (412) 563-3933
- Rite Aid -2100 Washington Pike, Carnegie PA Phone: 412-276-7077
- Giant Eagle – 200 Station Street (McDonald) Pittsburgh, PA

- **Rite Aid** - 975 Market St Meadville PA 814 336-3773
- **Jack's Pharmacy** - 285 Chestnut St Meadville, PA 814 336-1113
- **Rite Aid** - 4111 William Penn Hwy., Monroeville PA Phone: 412-373-5420
- **CVS Pharmacy** - 3893 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, PA, Phone: (412) 372-4079
- **Giant Eagle Pharmacy** 4010 Monroeville Boulevard, Monroeville, PA,

**ONLINE TRAINING TO USE NALOXONE: PrescribetoPrevent.org/patient-education/videos/**
**ONLINE TRAINING FOR PHARMACISTS & PRESCRIBERS: PrescribetoPrevent.org/prescribers/**

# INLÉ SILFLAY

Be cunning, and full of tricks, and
your people will never be destroyed.

REMEMBER THE DEAD
FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

RONNIE READ

AKA | JACK

**1990 - 2022**

*Anarchist, lawyer, fighter, friend.*

# CRACKS IN THE STEEL CITY

***AUTONOMOUS NEWS RECAP || MAY 1 to JULY 31***

**Cracks in the Steel City** is a *Filler* column that recaps local news that Pittsburgh anarchists and other anti-authoritarian radicals may find interesting. This installment focuses primarily on two kinds of news: autonomous and illegalist action, and developments in the city and capitalist class's counter-insurgency efforts.

This column is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of direct action or updates on state repression, but is rather intended as place where a variety of news stories can be contextualized as part of the larger social war. Far too many anarchists in this city seem to have convinced themselves that Pittsburgh is experiencing a lull period.

Frankly, we here at *Filler* think that's a bunch of bullshit, and folks only believe it because they are stuck measuring "momentum" by the activist Left's metric (which focuses on turnout at street protests or whatever).

Our hope with this column is to present a broader spectrum of activity for radicals to consider, to place individual and small-group actions in strategic dialogue with each other, and to celebrate the cool-ass shit all you feral wingnuts are up to out there.

*All news content in this column is sourced from anonymous submissions & communiques (many of which can be read in their entirety online at fillerpgh.wordpress.com), miscellaneous social media posts, crime blotters and police reports, or the local capitalist media. All dates should be considered approximate and may vary in accuracy.*

# WHAT WENT DOWN:

## May 1

- On May Day, *"some kid"* in Pittsburgh smashed the windows of a Bank of America, which funds *"the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline on unceded Wet'suwet'en land, and 'cop city' in the Atlanta Forest."*

## May 2

- Capitalist media reports that the number of new Pittsburgh Police applicants dropped from 800 in 2017 to 160 in 2022.

## May 6

- A march in defense of abortion rights at the City County Building downtown is organized by Black Liberation Autonomous Collective, Black Anarchist Community Council, Steel City Food Not Bombs, the Abortion Defense Committee, and Justice for Jim Rogers.

## May 7

- An anti-choice billboard is vandalized with graffiti reading *"Cherish your choice."*

## May 10

- *Youth Liberation Now* issue #3 is released. YLN is a zine that was started by a teen anarchist in Pittsburgh.

**Editor's Note:** *PDFs of every issue are available online at fillerpgh.wordpress.com.*

## May 11

- A Spin Scooter recharging station is sabotaged in Garfield. *"We [RBT crew] poured etch on the solar panels, tagged shit, and blacked out the QR codes*

*on the charging scooters.*

*We know this action by itself accomplishes little more than inconveniencing yuppies, but we also know we aren't the only ones. fucking with Spin. Every scooter they need to repair or replace puts a minor hole in their pockets. But also, we did it for fun. Fuck their data-mining, gentrifying bullshit."*

## May 13

- Critical Mass rides in solidarity with Jailbreak PGH, raising over $300 to support community members who are currently locked up at the Allegheny County Jail.

## May 16

- A social media post goes up that explains a free ride scam for Spin scooters, a breakdown of which goes something like this: take the QR code from the scooter you want to use, print out a couple dozen small stickers of the QR code, find a yuppie area to scam, cover all QR codes of the scooters in that area with your own QR code stickers.

When someone goes to pay to activate a scooter, the code that they scan is actually your QR code, and they have just paid to activate your scooter.

***EN:** Sounds fun, but why not just steal a Healthy Ride bike or something?*

## May 20

- The local chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and Filler Distro collaborate to sling some goofy shirts to raise funds for prisoners of the George Floyd Uprising in Pittsburgh.

***EN:** You can support our troops by visiting filler-pgh.bandcamp.com/merch and ordering a shirt.*

## May 21 to 23

- At least a dozen Spin Scooter batteries are liberated and repurposed. *"Kinda had to bash out the back wheel to get to the latch that keeps the battery pack in the body, but once that's off you can just go ahead and pop it out. There's already a power cable attached, which is useful. And with a little market research, the batteries can also be flipped for decent money."*

## May 31

- Posters identifying, indicting, and doxxing local climate profiteers go up around the city.

***EN:** Check out the column 'Pittsburgh's Least Wanted.'*

## June 1

- Erie, PA: Atlas Technical Consultants office attacked in solidarity with Atlanta Forest defenders. Visit *stopreevesyoung.com* if you are interested in researching Cop City contractors and investors near you. Use a VPN.

## June 5 (ish)

- A queer and trans solidarity sticker campaign starts slapping up hundreds of hand-written queer affirmations, covering just about every block in the Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship areas.

## June 6

- A letter-writing event is organized for the June 11 International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason and All Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners.

*Visit june11.org for more information.*

## June 8

- The Pittsburgh FBI Field Office resorts to asking for the public's help in identifying a man who successfully robbed the Standard Bank on Mount Troy Road in Reserve Township earlier in May. Turns out nobody knows shit. At the time of this

writing, there are still no suspects.

## June 9

- Unknown actors smash out all the windows at the Zone 2 Pittsburgh Police substation on Liberty Avenue. At the time of this writing, there are still no suspects.

## June 10

- WPXI reports, *"It was anything but smiles at the Eat'n Park in Robinson for breakfast Thursday morning. A customer refused to leave, and it ended with several police officers assaulted."*

## June 11

- Another letter-writing event is organized for the June 11 International Day of Solidarity with Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners.

## June 18

- *"The Ghost of Penn Plaza"* destroys locks and windows at the new Whole Foods, built on the site of the mass eviction at Penn Plaza. Graffiti left for the gentrifiers read, *"The Ghost of Penn Plaza says fuck Bezos!"*

- An anonymous person currently incarcerated in Pennsylvania writes an open letter calling for a week of prisoner resistance beginning on October 10.

***EN:** The full letter is available to read online at fillerpgh.wordpress.com.*

## June 23

- A woman is accused of stealing a U-Haul to go on a crime spree with her wife. Capitalist media reports that the couple drove all over the city, loading up the cargo van with tens of thousands of dollars of stolen merchandise from dozens of different stores. *Now that's what I call U-Hauling!*

## June 24

- A march against the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v Wade* at the City County Building downtown is organized by the Abortion Defense Committee, Black Liberation Autonomous Collective, Black Anarchist Community Council, and Food Not Bombs.

- The Big Idea Cooperative Bookstore and Café (Pittsburgh's friendly neighborhood anarchist bookstore) covers their entire storefront with a banner promoting the march downtown.

- How-To Black Bloc and Activist Phone Security posters begin circulating, and over the next few weeks are routinely spotted around radical social spaces and music venues.

- Union workers at the Starbucks in Bloomfield go on strike.

## June 27

- A Pittsburgh Police officer is shot in the chest. In a press conference, Mayor Ed Gainey made sure to tell us all to pray for the officer, going on to say *"it is a blessing"* that the officer will make a full recovery thanks to his bulletproof vest.

## June 28

- Capitalist media runs the headline "Pittsburgh's North Side residents glad to see increased police presence."

The residents interviewed for this story included important community voices, such as... *Lady-from-Conservative-Christian-Organization*, *Old-Man-Concerned-for-the-Children*, and *Person-on-the-Street-Disgusted-by-Drug-Users.*

All three of the residents expressed enthusiasm for the increased Pittsburgh Police mobilization, and agree that additional foot-patrols in Allegheny Commons East

Park represent a great step forward for the North Side.

## June 30

- Capitalist media reports that a six person crew coordinated a successful night of car-hopping across several suburbs outside of Pittsburgh. They allegedly had a good haul, acquiring a handgun among other valuables.

- Another unsolved armed car-jacking in East Liberty. The border between the "Techie Triangle" (the gentrified zone of East Liberty, which is marked by Bakery Square, the new Whole Foods, and the Target) and the rest of East Liberty continues to be one of the hottest conflict zones in the Pittsburgh class war, with the monthly number of reported car jackings sometimes approaching 70 separate stolen vehicles.

- The McKees Rocks Police Department announces they have been working with the FBI, the ATF, and the DEA to coordinate a new crackdown on illegal firearms. They claim the operation has seized over 20 firearms since launching several weeks prior to the press conference.

## July 3

- Two BP gas stations are robbed within half an hour —one in West Mifflin, and the other in Pleasant Hills. A short time later, a third convenience store robbery in Monroeville ends in an arrest. Police believe the two BP robberies to be connected to the suspect arrested in Monroeville.

## July 4

- An off-duty officer is shot dead during a road rage altercation out near Blawnox.

## July 6

- Capitalist media reports that a six person crew successfully boosted three vehicles in three separate neighborhoods sometime during the previous night, starting out in the wealthy suburbs of Upper Saint Clair before coordinating movements into the surrounding area.

## July 8

- A "Justice for Jayland Walker" banner is dropped by *"some anarchists"* over Bigelow Boulevard.

*"Solidarity with fighters in Akron. Justice won't come from the courts, voting won't stop 90 bullets. Justice is abolition, fuck the police. See you in the streets."*

- BLAC & BACC organize a march for Jayland Walker at the City County Building in downtown Pittsburgh.

- *"In memory of DESTITUTE, GRIEF slashed the tires of three luxury vehicles in Shadyside."*

- The Sto-Rox School Board announces that the district is creating the first Sto-Rox school police force, comprised of three full-time armed officers and supplemented with seven additional security guards.

The president of the Sto-Rox School Board, Cameron Culliver, assures students, *"It's not a prison you are coming to, I don't want people to think they are coming into a prison. That's not what we are going to give off, but things will look and feel different."*

## July 11

- The Pittsburgh FBI office reports that cybercrime rates have more than doubled in Allegheny County over the last two years, with scammers cumulatively accruing $400,000 in 2021.

## July 12

- An anti-choice billboard is vandalized with the graffiti message *"Stay out of our uterus!"*

- District Justice Gene Ricciardi calls for a *"crime state of emergency"* to be declared on the South Side. Saying other measures have fallen short, he wants beefed-up patrols with new powers to rein in gun violence and *"lewdness."*

## July 13

- Capitalist media reports that two women carried out a *"skilled"* and *"brazen"* jewelry heist at the Kay Jewelers in South Union Township, making off with over $50,000. While police speculate that the women may be tied to similar thefts along the East Coast, there are still no suspects in this ongoing investigation.

## July 15

- Capitalist media reports that sometime in early July, unknown actor(s) shot up the Aliquippa Police Department while officers were still inside.

The attack succeeded in damaging one police cruiser, one private vehicle, and part of the building's facade. At the time of this writing, there are still no suspects in this ongoing investigation.

## July 16

- Allegheny County Police report that 14 suspicious fires occurred between April 23 and July 9, 2022 in the Homestead, Bloomfield, and Munhall areas.

At the time of this writing, a full five days after releasing high-quality surveillance camera images to the capitalist media, police have yet to identify the suspect.

## July 18

- Victor Zilinek, 39, dies less than a day after being booked into the Allegheny County Jail. He is the 12th inmate to die in the jail since the beginning of 2020.

## July 23

- Capitalist media reports another spike in car-hopping around the city. They advise wealthy residents to lock their car doors, even in "safe" neighborhoods.

## July 25

- In honor of the July 25th International Day of Solidarity with Anti-Fascist Prisoners, an autonomous group of anarchist soccer hooligans organized a letter-writing, potluck, and pick-up soccer game in Bloomfield.

***EN:*** *Filler FC lost our match 3 to 2 and I'm still really fuckin salty about it.*

- The University of Pittsburgh and three other state-related universities (Penn State, Temple and Lincoln) will get a $40 million boost from Governor Tom Wolf.

This announcement comes a little over a week after Pitt announced yet another tuition hike.

***EN:*** *To keep it brief, universities in this city are the engine of gentrification, techno-capitalist development, and the progressive wing of the counter-insurgency.*

*Pittsburgh radicals should probably keep an eye on what the schools are doing, even if you're not interested in connecting with student organizing efforts.*

## July 26

- Capitalist media reports *"Towns in the Mon Valley are struggling to provide their communities protection with understaffed and underpaid part-time police departments.*

*Beginning this week, the state will be holding community meetings to form one big regional police force in the valley."*

## July 27

- An anti-choice billboard is vandalized with a message reading, *"10th WARD AGAINST FORCED BIRTH"* and, *"YOUR CUNT, YOUR CHOICE!"*

## July 28

- Capitalist media reports, *"Pittsburgh police say thieves are using USB cables to steal cars. Pittsburgh Police Sergeant Tom Huerbin said the warning comes out of Milwaukee, where he said an organized group has stolen more than 1,500 cars using USB cords.*

*'In June, we had 5 Hyundai or Kia models taken,'* Huerbin said. *'This month so far, we've had 15. So, obviously, it's on the rise in the area here.' "*

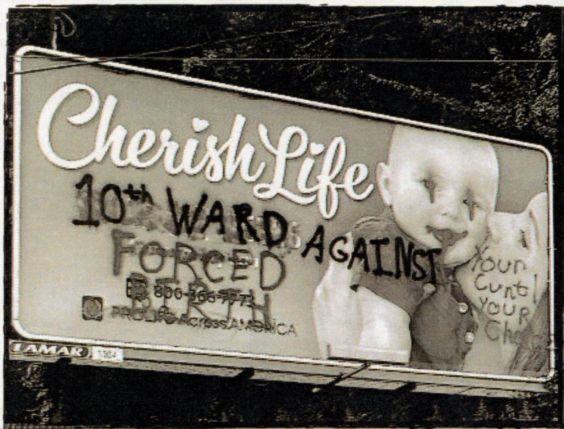
## July 29

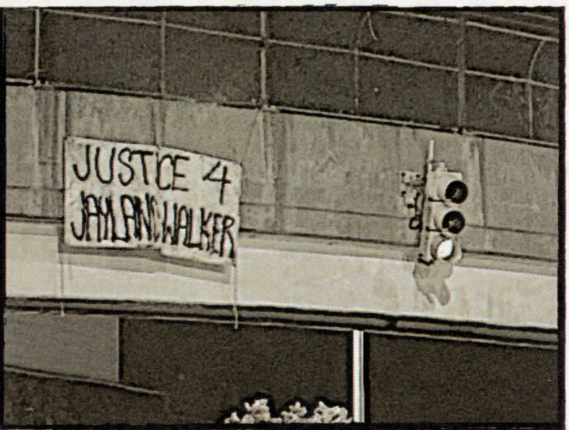
- A Pennsylvania State Police trooper was shot in Aliquippa. A suspect has been charged.

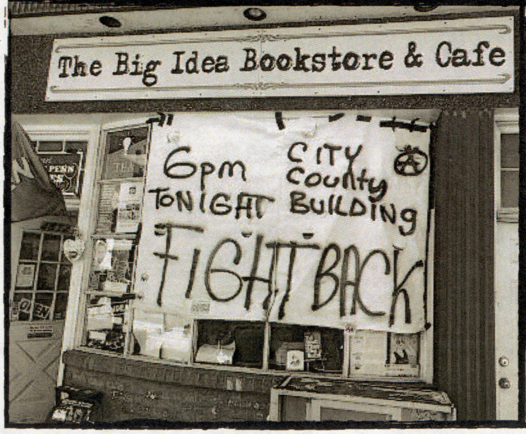
## July 31

- A group of over a dozen teenagers jump three yuppies on scooters in downtown Pittsburgh.

***Send us your report- backs, responsibility claims, or just let us know what we missed Filler_PGH@protonmail.com***



Small actions build trust, confidence, situational awareness, and inform our ideas moving forward. They deepen our understandings of ourselves and each other in ways that theory never will.

When small actions begin a discourse, connections form through both ideas and their practice, and spread like social contagion. Jane's Revenge has popped up all across the continent because of its shared targets and messaging, "The Kia Boys" have become a media scandal in every major city through a shared toolkit for USB car-jackings, renegade sideshows and ride-outs break down social barriers with a common love for criminal joyrides.

We'll close this installment of *Cracks* with an excerpt from "Signals of Disorder: Sowing Anarchy in the Metropolis" by AG Schwarz:

**The goal of the State is total social control.** The trajectory of capitalism is towards the total commercialization of public space. Every time we identify another invasion of State and capitalism into the minutiae of daily life, every time we confront that invasion, we are potentially fighting for revolution. *As Authority increasingly manages us at the nano level, the can of spraypaint, the rock, the molotov, deserve the same significance as the AK-47.*

**Spreading signals of disorder accomplishes a number of things.**

**It increases our tactical strength,** as we hone a practice of vandalism, property destruction, public occupation, and rowdiness.

**It interrupts the narrative of social peace,** and creates the indisputable fact of people opposed to the present system and fighting against it. It means the reason for this fight, the anarchist critiques, have to be taken more seriously because they already exist in the streets. In this way, the attacks create the struggle as a fact in a way that would otherwise only be possible in times of greater social upheaval and movement. To have this effect, the signals of disorder need to explicitly link themselves to a recognizable social practice, one that would otherwise be ignored or chopped up into disconnected eccentricities of lifestyle.

People in the neighborhood must know that the graffiti and broken windows are the doing of "the anarchists" or some other group that has a public existence, because signals of disorder that can be isolated as phenomena of urban noise can be legitimately and popularly policed with techniques reserved for inanimate objects and aesthetic aberrations; they would rub us off the streets with the same chemical rigor as they clean graffiti off the walls.

**Signals of disorder are contagious.** They attract people who also want to be able to touch and alter their world, rather than just pass through it. They are easy to replicate and at times, generally beyond our control or prediction, they spread far beyond our circles.

They allow us, and anyone else, to reassert ourselves in public space, to reverse commercialization, to make neighborhoods that belong to us, to create the ground on which society will be reborn.

**Whenever we can break their little laws with impunity, we show that the State is weak.** When advertising is defaced, when yuppie stores get smashed, when we convert a vacant lot into a skatepark and public space is liberated, we show that capitalism is not absolute.

But at the same time, we cannot make the mistake of exaggerating the importance of the attack, of signals of disorder. At times it may be necessary to be a gang, but if we are ever only a gang, if at any point only our antisocial side is visible, we are vulnerable to total repression. Infrastructure, distribution, and mutual aid projects are equally as important for developing affinity, for encountering people in our search for accomplices.

Except in the magical space of the riot, we cannot safely find spontaneous accomplices for the attack. But in the stultifying oppression of everyday, we can find accomplices to share in the little gestures of defiance, the small tastes of the commune we are building — a random conversation, a flyer someone is actually interested to read, the passing around of a stolen meal, collaboration in a community garden, the giving of gifts.

The anarchists must simultaneously be those who are blamed for acts of startling indecency, of inappropriate extremism in all the right causes ("they burned four police cars at our peaceful march!") and those who are around town cooking and sharing free communal meals, holding street parties, projecting pirated movies on the sides of buildings, running libraries and bicycle repair shops, and appearing at protests ("oh look, it's those lovely anarchists again!").

***We will be safest from the right hand of repression and the left hand of recuperation when everyone is thoroughly confused as to whether we are frightening or loveable.***

***

# HOW TO DO IT:

## BLACK BLOC TACTICS

allow demonstrators to take action without fear of immediate identification. If you choose to wear a mask, do it right:

### ✱ COVER UP

It's not enough to cover half your face. Even if you get away, the police may use photos or video to charge you later. Cover your hair, face, arms, and hands. Cloth gloves are best. Take out piercings. Make sure there are no identifying features on your clothes, shoes, or backpack. If you bring any materials with you, wipe them down with rubbing alcohol first to get the prints off. Don't bring anything you don't need.

### ✱ STAY TIGHT

If possible, come to the demonstration with a small group of people you trust. Choose your crew based on shared intentions, not just friendship. You are there to have each other's back in the street and follow up if one of you gets arrested or hurt. Strangers need to protect each other too. Stay physically close, not spread out, so that if police try to enter the crowd, you can "accidentally" get in their way. The front of the march might need to slow down while the back catches up. Stay moving, though: a tight, mobile crowd is difficult to surround or disperse.

### ✱ PLAN YOUR EXIT

Always wear "civilian clothes" under your hoodie so that you can de-bloc and blend in with a crowd or smoothly walk away. Keep an eye out for danger zones and escape routes. If things heat up, stay calm and act decisively. Commit to your exit when you decide you're done. Sometimes you have to sprint and hide; sometimes, you just step onto the sidewalk and remove your mask. You can de-bloc in the middle of a friendly crowd if you're sure you are well screened.

### ✱ KEEP IT QUIET

Bragging and storytelling are natural, but they're easy to use against us. If you have to talk, choose someone trustworthy who was with you in the streets. Don't post anything on Facebook that you wouldn't show a cop. The same goes for Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr. Remember that police will read your texts and call-log if they arrest you.

### ✱ NEVER, EVER SNITCH

If you are arrested, invoke your right to remain absolutely silent. Name, address, and no more.

## FASHION TIPS for HOOLIGANS

When engaging in any sort of potentially criminalized direct action, you should dress for anonymity. Mask up and cover up any identifying features— tattoos, hair, facial structure, eyebrows, forehead, etc. Ideally, no part of your body is uncovered.

If it's too dark out for sunglasses, safety glasses can help, and a hat with a brim will keep your eyes out of sight of most cameras.

Wear gloves during the action, and when touching anything you might leave behind. Thin latex or vinyl gloves can rip and expose your fingerprints — with disposable gloves, layer two on each hand or find ones that come double layered or heavy duty.

Be careful about your shoe choice. Even with the best outfit otherwise, that favorite pair of Nike's that you wear everywhere could be one thing that makes you a suspect. You can cover shoes with large socks or disposable shoe covers.

Don't just dress for anonymity, be intentional about your appearance. The context of your action is crucial when considering what to wear. Wearing all black head-to-toe is perfect when you're part of a black bloc, but a poor choice almost any other time. An umbrella is great for going unseen by overhead security cameras, but would attract unwanted attention if it isn't raining. If you're going out in the afternoon to glue ATMs, it's probably best to ditch the balaclava for a hat and mask that won't arouse suspicion. Luckily, the COVID-19 pandemic has made wearing a mask completely normal.

Consider whether or not you are going to be seen, and how people might react. Going through the woods at night, dark drab colors might keep you from ever being noticed. If you're taking an ad off of a lit-up billboard, you're going to be really visible anyway. Maybe throw on some hi-vis gear so those who do see you at least think you belong.

Depending on the action, consider having a fast way to change your appearance afterwards. If someone tells the police that it was someone in a red hoodie and blue hat smashing in the bank window, you want to be wearing something else as soon as possible.

Know the area that you're taking action in. Where are the security cameras? What streets have the most cars passing by? Where will there be people walking? Does someone like to sleep next to the window you planned to break? Is there a bar that stays open really late across the street?

When you're on bike or foot, it can be really helpful to know what paths you can go down where cars aren't able to follow. Plan for how you're getting there, AND how you're getting out afterwards. *Don't bring a phone*.

Gluing something can be really subtle. Smashing windows isn't. You could superglue a lock and then keep walking and gluing more for an hour without being noticed, but if you break a window you'll need to leave the area pretty fast. If you're doing multiple things in one place, save the loudest and riskiest for last (example: spray paint first, then smash shit before you leave). Be careful and intentional when combining different kinds of action.

*Most importantly, don't get caught and have fun!!!*

## PAINT BOMBS:

**Lightbulbs Filled With Paint**

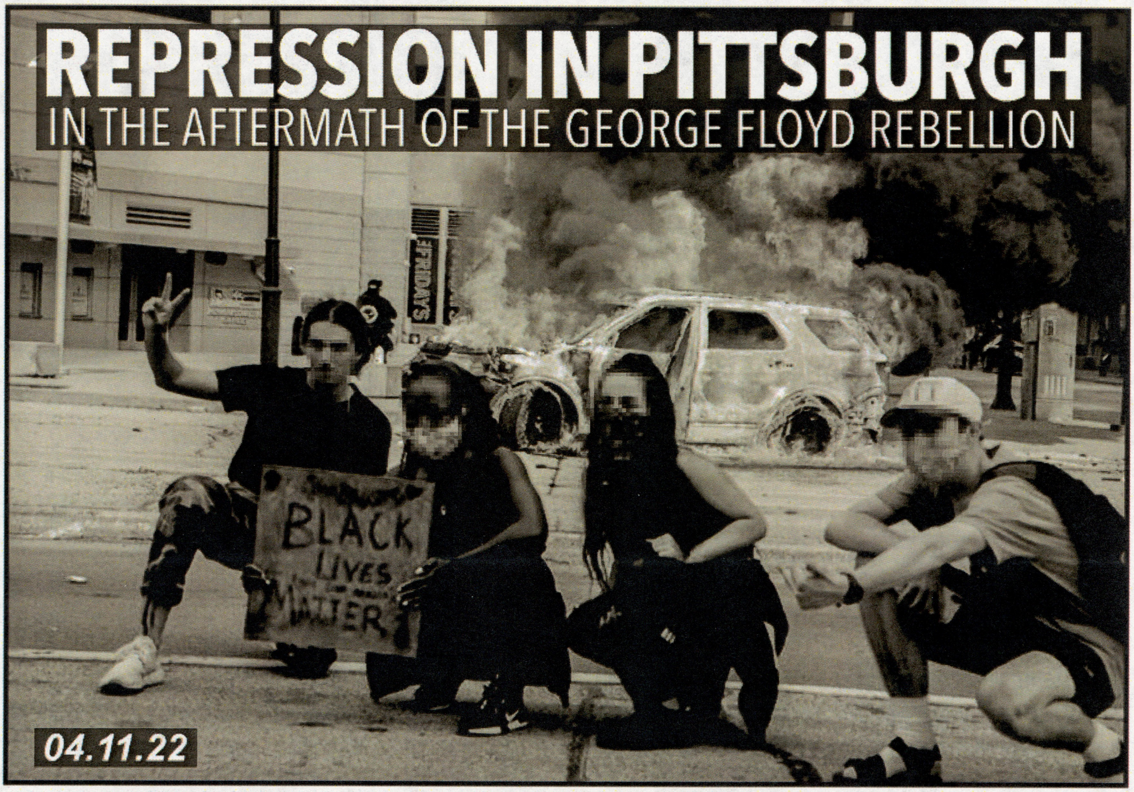
First, put on your cloth gloves. This will keep your fingertips (and the paint bombs) clean. You should work on a soft surface (like a fold towel) to protect your bulb.

1. First, use needle-nose pliers to cut off the metal fitting. You can either cut two vertical slits in the fitting and wiggle it off, or simply cut around the entire thing.

2. Next, remove the glass tube and filament from inside the bulb. If they haven't already broken in the process of cutting off the fitting, try gently poking them from the bottom with a screwdriver.

3. Fill the bulb with paint (use a funnel or dish soap bottle and add some water if the paint is thick), seal the hole with paper, clay or similar, and seal with electrical tape or melted wax. Mixing indoor and outdoor paint makes it much more difficult to remove.

4. Wipe down the bulb with rubbing alcohol to remove any prints.




## CONCERNING THE NEED FOR SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF REPRESSION

Compared to some places, Pittsburgh got off to a slow start in protesting the murder of George Floyd. A few activist groups finally called for a protest march on May 30, nearly a week after Floyd's slaying, and several days after intense riots had broken out in Minneapolis, Seattle, Portland, and other cities. Even then, many observers, jaded by years of permitted parades that never seriously challenged the power structure in Allegheny County, weren't expecting a lot. In their request for legal observers, even the march organizers estimated the expected crowd size at only 30 people. It ended up drawing over 100 times that many.

The afternoon of May 30th began in typical fashion. Protesters gathered downtown, organizers made impassioned speeches, while medics and other support folks fanned out and got themselves situated. The only difference was the crowd kept growing. By the time the march left Market Square it numbered in the thousands, and more people were flowing by the minute. The original plan of sticking to the sidewalk was obviously a nonstarter, but marchers were otherwise peaceful as they made their way slowly through downtown and up the hill toward PPG Paints Arena, accompanied by the usual chanting.

It's still not entirely clear how the riot started. Pittsburgh's corporate media rushed to pin blame on one person who allegedly broke a window of a police cruiser, an act that supposedly compelled hundreds of people, most of whom hadn't even seen it, to spend the next several hours rampaging through downtown

smashing windows and looting stores. More astute observers pointed out that, if one wanted to assign responsibility for the riots on a single violent act by a lone individual, there was always Derek Chauvin. Regardless, by the evening of the 30th, downtown Pittsburgh was a shambles. Over 70 stores had their windows broken, as did the downtown police substation, and a couple of police cruisers got torched. Many businesses were looted as well. One hapless Cricket dealership resorted to posting a hand-written sign on their door pleading *"STORE IS ALREADY ROBBED, Do Not Try Again."*

The Pittsburgh cops were caught by surprise and deeply embarrassed. They would spend the next year and a half extracting payback for their loss of face. Subsequent protests were met with the kind of brutality more often associated with police departments in Chicago and Los Angeles, belying Pittsburgh's carefully cultivated reputation as a liberal bastion of free speech. Two days after the riot, a protest march was attacked with tear gas and projectile weapons, for no greater offense than spray painting a building and continuing past the time police had decided it should end. No dispersal warning was ever given. One family just trying to escape the fray with their children were teargassed from a passing cop car. Two women who had been merely filming the action from the balcony of their apartment building were raided and arrested on suspicion of throwing objects down at the cops, although no evidence of this allegation was ever presented. Throughout the summer, demonstrators were subjected to harassment and arbitrary arrests, including one activist who was snatched off the street by undercover cops in an unmarked vehicle. Those seen as leaders were particular targets, with several arrested multiple times for supposed violations that would have excited little comment during, say, the aftermath of a home Steelers game. One demonstrator, who had been blinded in one eye by a "less-lethal" projectile on the 30th, was later charged with several felonies only after revealing their intention to sue the police.

In addition to the spectacular arrests and repression that were obviously designed to suppress activism and protest, the Pittsburgh police also initiated a much quieter effort to identify and arrest anyone who could be identified from video footage protesting on the 30th. Despite no one having been injured that day except protesters, a task force of a size more appropriate to a serial murder investigation was assembled to pursue charges against demonstrators for breaking windows at worst, and in some cases for merely being present during the disturbance. Their goal seems to be to "take attendance" in order to fill up their database of dissidents, as well as ruining the lives of as many activists as possible to discourage further resistance to the ruling order. The task force also seems to have included federal law enforcement, who have singled out a handful of protesters for federal felony charges of Obstruction of Law Enforcement During a Civil Disorder. These charges are more serious than most of those leveled against the January 6th rioters in DC who invaded the Capitol building, showing the usual law enforcement bias in favor of the far right.

***"Protesters fighting felony charges do not have the luxury of retirement, and they are being abandoned by the same organizers who called them into the street in the first place."***

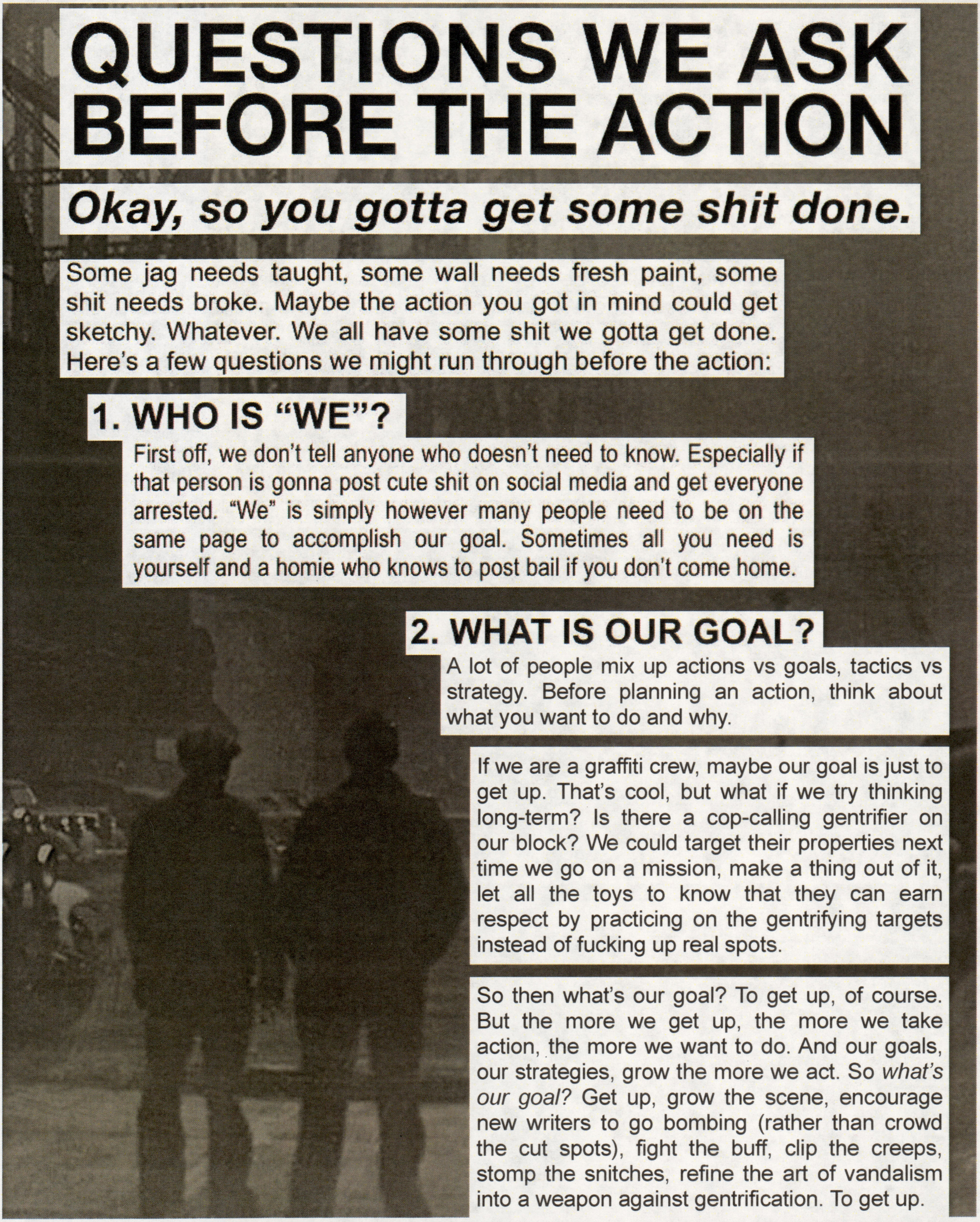
Today, nearly two years after the uprising, many of the organizations that organized George Floyd actions have moved on, or dissolved entirely. Activists are doing the proverbial “stepping back to do self care” routine, which is often simply a prelude to retirement. Unfortunately, the criminal “justice” system has a longer attention span. Protesters fighting felony charges do not have the luxury of retirement, and they are being abandoned by the same organizers who called them into the street in the first place. Over 60 individuals have been charged with felonies for protesting police brutality, and most of them are still dealing with their cases in one way or another. Seven are incarcerated, either serving sentences or awaiting trials. They need continuing financial support in the form of commissary money to afford the snacks, toiletries, and other items that make life behind bars somewhat more bearable.

***Please donate to the commissary fund. All proceeds will go to commissary and legal support for people facing felony charges for protesting in the Pittsburgh area.***

***(https://www.gofundme.com/f/pittsburgh-nlg-felony-defense-fund)***

*Photo taken by YASKO*

*"It's All The Same" by Emory Douglas*



# QUESTIONS WE ASK BEFORE THE ACTION

## *Okay, so you gotta get some shit done.*

Some jag needs taught, some wall needs fresh paint, some shit needs broke. Maybe the action you got in mind could get sketchy. Whatever. We all have some shit we gotta get done. Here's a few questions we might run through before the action:

### 1. WHO IS "WE"?

First off, we don't tell anyone who doesn't need to know. Especially if that person is gonna post cute shit on social media and get everyone arrested. "We" is simply however many people need to be on the same page to accomplish our goal. Sometimes all you need is yourself and a homie who knows to post bail if you don't come home.

### 2. WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

A lot of people mix up actions vs goals, tactics vs strategy. Before planning an action, think about what you want to do and why.

If we are a graffiti crew, maybe our goal is just to get up. That's cool, but what if we try thinking long-term? Is there a cop-calling gentrifier on our block? We could target their properties next time we go on a mission, make a thing out of it, let all the toys to know that they can earn respect by practicing on the gentrifying targets instead of fucking up real spots.

So then what's our goal? To get up, of course. But the more we get up, the more we take action, the more we want to do. And our goals, our strategies, grow the more we act. So *what's our goal?* Get up, grow the scene, encourage new writers to go bombing (rather than crowd the cut spots), fight the buff, clip the creeps, stomp the snitches, refine the art of vandalism into a weapon against gentrification. To get up.

# QUESTIONS WE ASK BEFORE THE ACTION

## 3. WHAT MIGHT GET IN THE WAY OF THAT GOAL?

This could be before, during, or after the action. Don't overthink every scenario. We just need to consider some possible obstacles.

## 4. WHAT DO WE NEED TO BRING WITH US?

What do we need for the action? Can we dispose of it if needed? Could bringing that unnecessarily escalate things? If cops stopped us after we disposed of our tools, what else would they find on us?

## 5. HOW WILL WE GET HOME SAFELY?

Do we have transportation?

Roundabout routes that avoid cameras?

## 6. WHAT'S THE WORST CASE SCENARIO?

If none of us ever got caught, no one would be printing these flyers to begin with.

# CALL FOR SUPPORT

Harshall is a single parent, queer anarchist, and Pittsburgh graffiti writer who needs to raise $2,100 in order to pay restitution and get off of parole. Harshall is a dedicated writer and is also heavily involved in a number of local mutual aid projects around the city.

***The sooner we can help them raise this money and get off parole, the better!***

***DONATE HERE —>***

*Add the comment "Harsh" so we know where to direct the funds.*

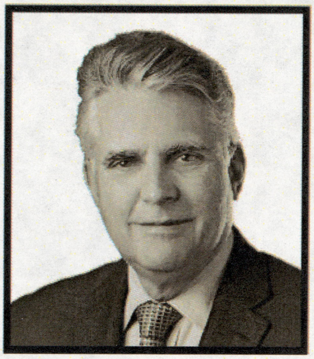
# WAR

# CLIMATE

ANONYMOUS SUBMISSION

## ATTENTION: BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE DANGEROUS *CLIMATE CRIMINALS*

## MURRAY S. GERBER



### *DESCRIPTION:*

**RACE:** White
**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** Unknown
**HAIR:** Grey
**AFFILIATED COMPANIES:** Blackrock, Haliburton, EQT
**OCCUPATION:** Corporate Executive
**BIRTHDAY:** February 23, 1953
**NATIONALITY:** American
**ADDRESS:** 75 Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

**WARNING**

Gerber is a current board member of Blackrock and Halliburton and has previously served as the CEO of EQT. His actions throughout his lengthy career as an oil and gas executive are directly responsible for causing untold environmental degredation, dramatically worsening global warming, inducing innumerable cancers and related illnesses, and causing much suffering throughout the United States and around the world. If you encounter Gerber, make it known that his presence in our community is not appreciated.

## HILARY MERCER

### *DESCRIPTION:*

**RACE:** White
**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** Unknown/Unknown
**HAIR:** Brown
**AFFILIATED COMPANIES:** Shell
**OCCUPATION:** Senior Vice President
**BIRTHDAY:** Unknown
**NATIONALITY:** American
**ADDRESS:** Unknown

**WARNING**

Hilary Mercer is the Senior Vice President of Shell Pennsylvania Chemicals. Her actions throughout her career as a fossile fuel engineer and executive are directly responsible for causing untold environmental degredation, dramatically worsening global warming, inducing innumerable cancers and related illnesses, and causing much suffering throughout the United States and around the world. If you encounter Mercer, make it known that her presence in our community is not appreciated.

# NING CRIMINALS

SUMMER '22

**WHEN IT COMES TO FUCKING THE WHOLE PLANET OVER, *THEY MEAN BUSINESS***

## SHANNON DEBES

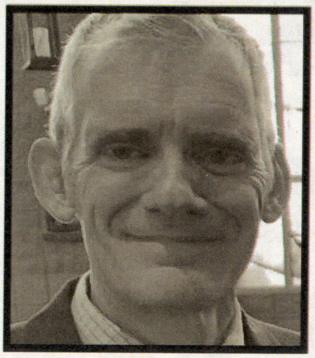
### *DESCRIPTION:*

RACE: White
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: Unknown/Unknown
HAIR: Brown
AFFILIATED COMPANIES: Shell
OCCUPATION: Community Liason Officer
BIRTHDAY: Unknown
NATIONALITY: American
ADDRESS: 121 Cimarron Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108

**WARNING**

Shannon Debes is the Community Liaison Officer for Shell's Pennsylvania Petrochemical Complex. Her actions throughout her career as a fossil fuel propogandist and facilitator are directly responsible for causing untold environmental degredation, dramatically worsening global warming, inducing innumerable cancers and related illnesses, and causing much suffering throughout the United States and around the world. If you encounter Debes, make it known that her presence in our community is not appreciated.

## WILLIAM "BILL" WATSON



### *DESCRIPTION:*

RACE: White
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: Unknown/Unknown
HAIR: Grey
AFFILIATED COMPANIES: Shell
OCCUPATION: Manager
BIRTHDAY: Unknown
NATIONALITY: American
ADDRESS: 1500 Second Street, Beaver, PA 15009

**WARNING**

William "Bill" Watson is the manager of Shell's Pennsylvania Petrochemicals Complex and has formerly held fossil fuel jobs in Texas, Illinois, Louisian, and the United Kingdom. His actions throughout his career at Shell are directly responsible for causing untold environmental degredation, dramatically worsening global warming, inducing innumerable cancers and related illnesses, and causing much suffering throughout the United States and around the world. If you encounter Watson, make it known that his presence in our community is not appreciated.

## *DEAR WESTERN LEFTISTS,*

# BROWN PEOPLE CAN BE FASCISTS TOO!

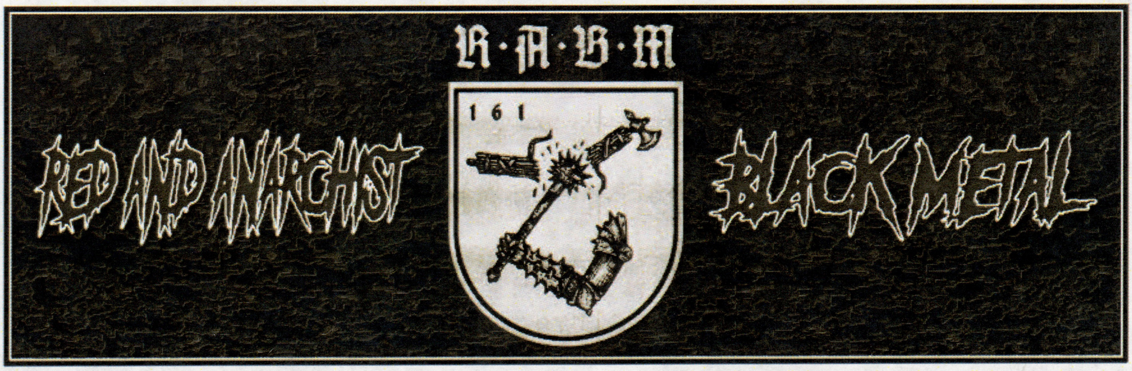
***SANITY RENEGADE***

Back in June 2019, prominent Youtube metal review channel BangerTV called out the French Black Metal band DEATHSPELL OMEGA for their associations with Mikko Aspa, an outspoken white supremacist who also had a pedophilia themed power electronics project. As a casual viewer of the channel, I was happy that BangerTV called out this band and did not do the usual thing of "separating art from artists", an attitude that seems to be prevalent amongst metalheads these days. My optimism was short-lived.

The channel's stance against bigotry and hate only applied when talking about artists from the West. A few weeks ago, in 2022, the same channel did an episode on the Indian and Srilankan war-metal scene, platforming bands like KONFLICT, GENOCIDE SHRINES, TETRAGRAMMACIDE, featuring Sandesh Shenoy—the owner of Cyclopean Eye Productions—playing the part of the 'local expert'.

Most of these bands have lyrical themes around "terror, violence, war, death and destruction", which is par for the course as far as extreme metal lyrical content go. However, with some of these bands, the edginess bleeds beyond the lyrics. For instance, KONFLICT released an EP in 2018 called 'Trigger Universal Conflict', featuring vocals by a certain Antichrist Kramer. A quick search online would reveal that their boy Kramer runs Satanic Skinhead Propaganda, a label that has been associated with bands like DER STRÜMER, ABSURD, and SPEAR OF LONGINUS, all bands with explicitly anti-semitic and national-socialist lyrics.

KONFLICT has also released albums through GoatowaRex, an extreme metal label based out of China that distributes the likes of GESTAPO 666 and BONE AWL, two bands that, as you might have guessed, feature explicitly Nazi imagery and lyrics on their tracks. To cap it all off, Cyclopean Eye Productions put out a split full-length featuring



KONFLICT and PHOSPHOR BLANC (French NSBM) called "Four Ways to Force-Fuck the Weak". Cyclopean Eye Productions have previously claimed that these bands cannot be fascist or racist because... they're "brown." Plus they "have even worked with Japanese bands" (referring to REEK OF UNZEN GAS FUMES, another band that is, surprise surprise, also very problematic).

All of this information is publicly available on Encyclopedia Metallum, and could have been researched in a matter of minutes. Unfortunately, BangerTV seems to have been blinded by the allure of war-metal bands from a third world country, and somehow managed to overlook the obvious connections these labels and bands have to fascism, nationalism, and organized bigotry.

**The way that BangerTV's selective anti-fascism functions is endemic to Western leftism. The lingering white imperialist guilt pushed by liberal identity discourse makes it so that a lot of white liberals and radicals think that being anti-racist means White=Bad, Not-White=Good. And this problem runs deeper than subcultural metal YouTube channels. Many massive liberal platforms give problematic people and ideas a pass, so long as they're from a place that is not 'the West'.**

A recent example of such a case is when Trevor Noah platformed Jaggi Vasudev during his late night talk show on Comedy Central. Jaggi Vasudev, or "Sadhguru" ("the great teacher") as he likes to brand himself, is a self-declared God-man who runs a yoga foundation

***"Apathy towards non-Western nationalist and fascist ideas, people, and movements is the norm."***

that is valued at $25 Million as of 2021. This self-proclaimed Guru is known for his speeches in English, where he often likes to throw in scientific jargon to grab the attention of India's working class youth.

What most people fail to realize is that this guy is a con-man, peddling hollow spiritual messages for economic and political profit. A quick search of this guy's pseudoscientific claims on YouTube will guarantee you hours of laughter (or despair, after you remember people actually buy into it. *YMMV*). But what isn't even remotely funny is Jaggi Vasudev's violent history of stealing ecologically-senstive land from indigenous tribal populations in the Coimbatore area of Tamil Nadu... so that he could build his sprawling ashram.

Jaggi Vasudev has influence amongs the elites in India, so much so, that the literal fascist prime minister of India personally visited the ashram to inaugurate a huge Shiva statue built in the middle of a known elephant corridor.

His support for Modi's Hindu nationalist regime has been unwavering and he even supported Modi's Citizenship Amendment Act, that sought to make the minority Muslim population of the country illegal in their own homeland.

This is the type of person that Trevor Noah, the comedian darling of American liberals, chose to uncritically give his platform to, essentially awarding Vasudev millions of views. Vasudev later went on to be platformed by the racist, slur-slinging podcaster Bro Jogan, which in my opinion is more suited for the kinda malicious misinformation he spreads.

Apathy towards non-Western nationalist and fascist ideas, people, and movements is the norm. This attitude even extends to social media platforms where hate speech policies are only triggered when they happens in English, F rench, German or some common western language. I'm sure a lot of you are aware of the lack of Facebook moderation in Myanmar that directly led to the death of Rohingya Muslims at the hands of the military Junta. Unfortunately, since the West only cares about the West, there is no real public pressure on major social media and tech companie s to enforce their codes of conduct unilaterally. As a former reddit addict, I can recount my first experience with being exposed to r/Chodi, a Hindu nationalist subreddit that frequently uses bigoted language and calls for genocide of India's minority population. However, since these posts use regional languages, they find it more than easy to skirt by the site's rules against inciting violence and targeting hatred towards a community of people. The subreddit thrives to this day, with an active membership of nearly 100k.

The irony is that all the people, labels, bands and subreddits mentioned in this article so far would likely dismiss most ideas exported from the west as "western decadence" or "western opulence". But they still rely on bigger western media platforms to spread their reach.

This hyprocrisy can be explained away by the need to thrive in a capitalist economy, which requires all the attention one can get. Expressing their bigoted ideas brazenly would only serve to drive away potential listeners away, creating a lack of supply. Take the case of Cyclopean Eye Productions for example. From their roster and past releases, it is not difficult to ascertain their attitudes on bands with fascistic associations. But on paper, they present themselves to be an "apolitical" label, that "separates the art from the artists".

This is a trend that has become common among metal bands with bigoted opinions. Over time, bands have understood that it makes better sense (both for business and for propaganda) for them to operate as crypto-fascists rather than as outspoken Nazis. While this makes it more difficult to ascertain a band's true intentions, it is certainly not impossible given the resources that we have at our disposal today.

I do not have the answers to how this issue can be counteracted in mainstream platforms, nor do I pretend to care about it. My concern is with the infiltration of these crypto-fascists in the underground music scene, which in the past, has been a vital source for me to understand my own politics. Thus I seek this piece to be an appeal for underground music fans to be more vigilant and more informed about bands that are from the other side of the planet. *Just because someone is from a "third world country" doesn't mean they're Good.*

•••

***Editor's Note: just before this article went to print, the subreddit r/Chodi has been banned by Reddit. This was the result of a Times article that highlighted hate speech on Reddit. The public shaming worked where thousands and thousands of reports raised by users of the platform did not.***

# A BLACK ANARCHIST PERSPECTIVE ON THE ROE v WADE PROTEST ON JUNE 24TH

*Submission from Saint (they/them) received on 07.08.22*

I am a part of Black Liberation Autonomous Collective (BLAC), Black Anarchist Community Council (BACC), and Food Not Bombs (FNB), and we are cool with the Abortion Defense Committee (ADC), so I was excited for all of us to collaborate as we commonly do.

I learned about the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and Socialist Alternative (SALT) maybe a few months ago and was educated about their dangerous behavior.

When I hear people's experiences, I agree with the survivors. My degree is in Criminal Justice and Cyber Forensics. We are taught that 4 out of 100 allegations have the potential to be false or have a false part to them. Our society and the rest of the world are very ignorant and insensitive to survivors and victims of assault, sexual assault, and abuse of all kinds and it shows within PSL and SALT.

I am not from Allegheny County so I was rushin' to the protest just for the Women's March to still be talking when our protest was supposed to begin.

PSL and SALT was trynna hand stuff to me when I was making my way to the rest of the group but I ignored them.

There was hella police, hella politicians–we don't like that. We are sure the Women's March asked the police to have a heavy presence since most of them are DL bootlickers in my eyes, yet all the groups tried to wait patiently for them to finish so we can speak and hurry up with the march.

While people from the Women's March were wrapping it up, PSL and SALT were trynna make they way up to the platform where all the groups were at. I was the first person to notice it, and of course I told they asses to take they behinds right back to where they was. I am a loud person, so other people around me started to notice and also say that they need to leave and/or get off the platform.

Yes I called them names. Yes I cussed at them because that's how I fuckin' talk.

Dena from TransUniting came over and told me to walk away and that she would handle it, so I did what mutha said. I'm not sure what Dena said or did, but at least four cops or so then stood between my groups and PSL and SALT(this is what SALT tried to use against us in their statement which we had nothing to do with).

They kept trynna inch they way back up to the platform. I kept yellin' at them to stay down there because even then they kept trynna come back up. Pigs kept eyein' me up so I walked away 'cause I ain't finna get in trouble for just yelling and I was furious and needed to calm down.

After all of that, still members of PSL and SALT kept coming up to tell us that they are going to be a part of the protest and asking what the problem is. When one of the members asked why they need to leave, I told them it is because they are terfs and abusers. The response was, “we have queer members we can’t be terfs.” That shit is honestly what pissed me off the most that evening because I am a Black trans person. They may not have known, but someone who is not a part of that community does not get to tell trans people that. We trans people often get left out of most issues, including the current issue of Roe v. Wade, ***so being dismissive of what I say and my experiences speaks volumes about those organizations.***

Our protest finally started and members from ADC got on the mic. We started off with chants, and PSL and ‘em tried starting their own, so I came over with my megaphone and chanted over them. We did land acknowledgment, plus other stuff I forget ‘cause honestly I was keepin’ my eyes of PSL and SALT. I remember a member of ADC called out PSL and SALT, saying we don’t want abusers and terfs here nor do we want the cops here. I started a “no terfs” chant. You do not get to harm people and play innocent then expect folks to be nice.

Fast forward to us actually starting to march, me and other marshals stayed near the platform to make sure PSL and SALT didn’t join in. We tried talking to them (it was loud since there were drummers there so it was really yelling) and members from the group said they didn’t want to listen to us and that we were not worth it. Saying all of this to trans and queer Black people. Meanwhile, PSL is holding up a trans flag with their logo on it, how crazy is that?

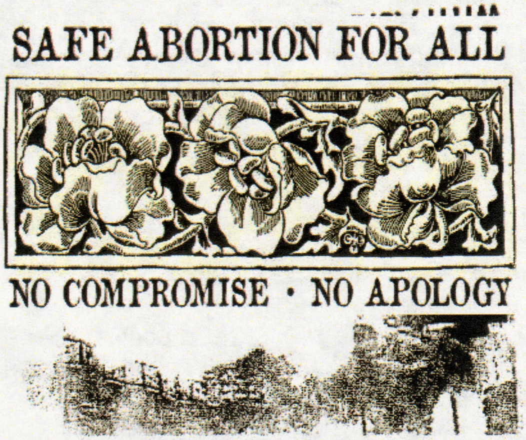
So they goofy asses stayed there and apparently were talking to themselves as I saw from the photos they posted.

We went about our protest, and when we got back, PSL (I am not sure if SALT was still there; I can tell PSL was ‘cause the ugly ass t-shirts they wear) were in the parking lot across from the City County Building. After the protest ended, folks burned pamphlets they for from the two organizations.

***I WAS TWERKIN' AND CHANTING “FUCK PSL”.***

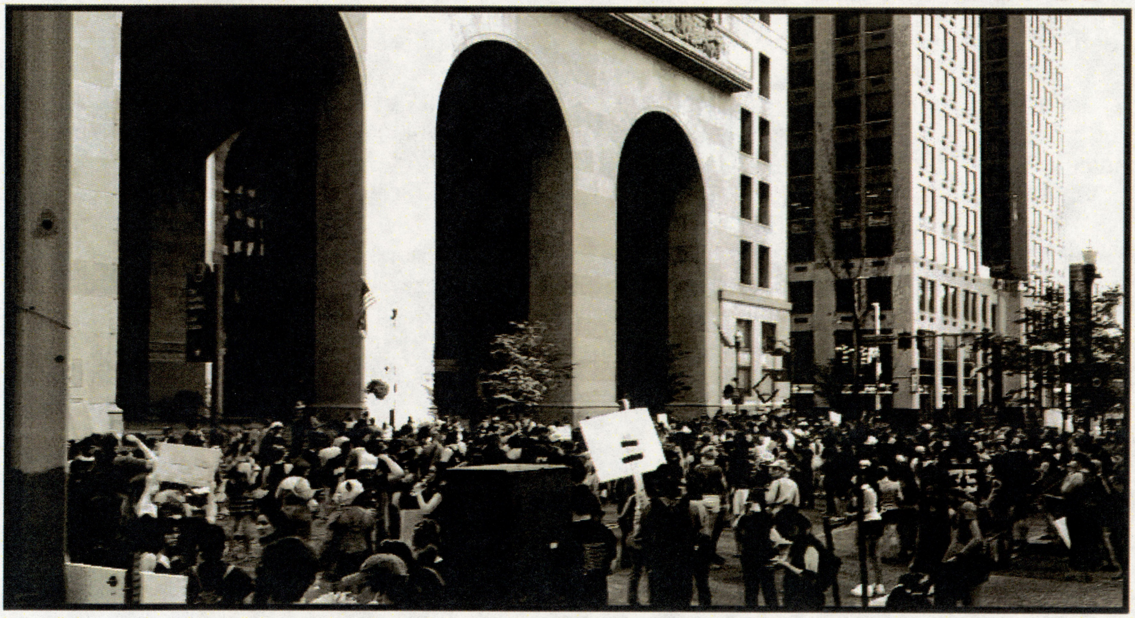
***CAUSE FUCK PSL, AND FUCK SALT!***

MAKING HISTORY NEVER STARTS WITH ASKING FOR PERMISSION



# THE CITY COUNTY BUILDING IS A TRAP

*ANONYMOUS SUBMISSION*
*RECEIVED 06.26.22*



**NOTES FOR THE SUMMER**

It's time to get back out there. With theocratic fascism ascendant in the USA (more ascendant than normal, to be clear) everyone from hardened veterans to people who have never been to a protest before are hitting the streets. Against police forces that haven't lost a single dollar and are emboldened by the rising fascist tide, we have a shorter runway to make mistakes.

So, let's talk about a few things. And note, this is all forward looking, seeking to introduce different reasoning to planning discourses, not question why previous decisions were made.

The City County Building is a trap for both ideological and practical reasons. The former isn't that important but it's worth noting. At this point, appealing to the state that has gotten us **looks around** here won't save anyone. It's also the kind of backdrop that politicians love appearing in front of. The mouthpieces of a supposedly liberal state in front of their domicile? Gross. We are not here to ask, we are here to take. The same could be said about the marches on Peduto's house September 2020 and on. Become ungovernable is undoubtedly one of the funnier things you can see on an internet meme about a cat stealing a sandwich but it still should mean something for us.

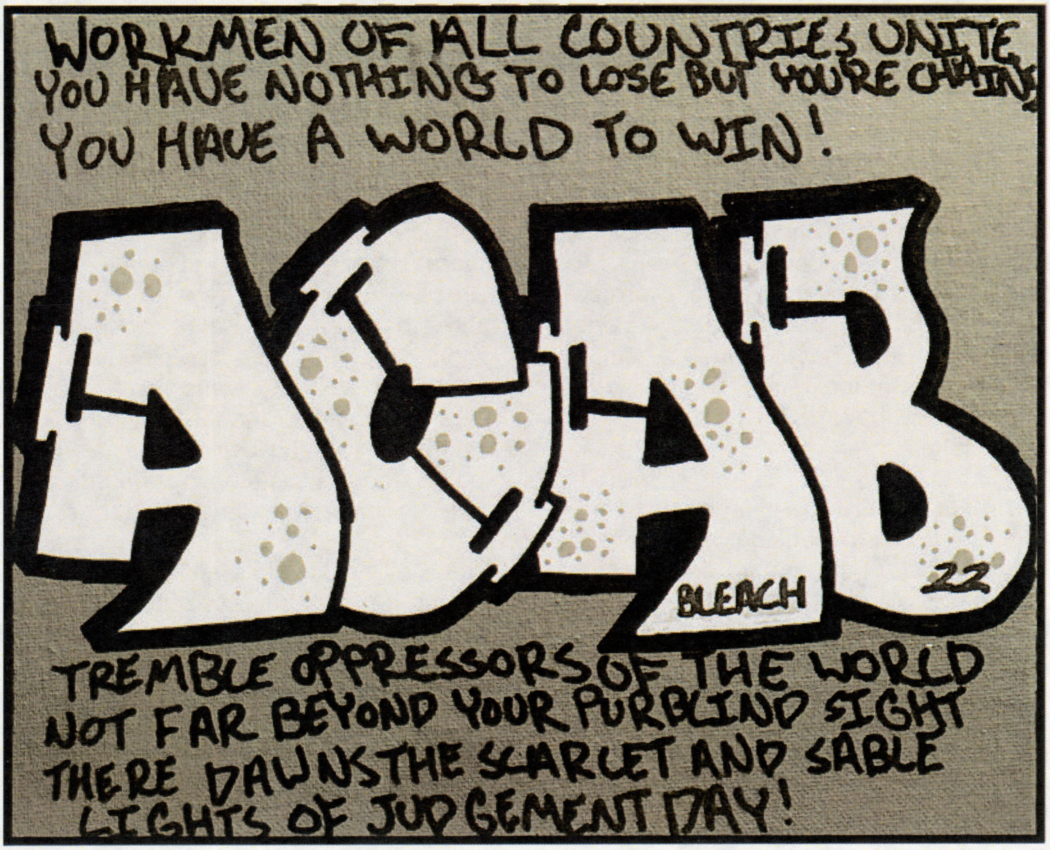
Practically – and this is more important – barring a crowd the size of May 30th 2020, downtown is a trap. Any crowd smaller than thousands or tens of thousands that so much as looks at a Starbucks storefront wrong is easy for police to contain and brutalize. As we learned from the 2020 uprising, the whole area is blanketed with cameras too, making it that much harder

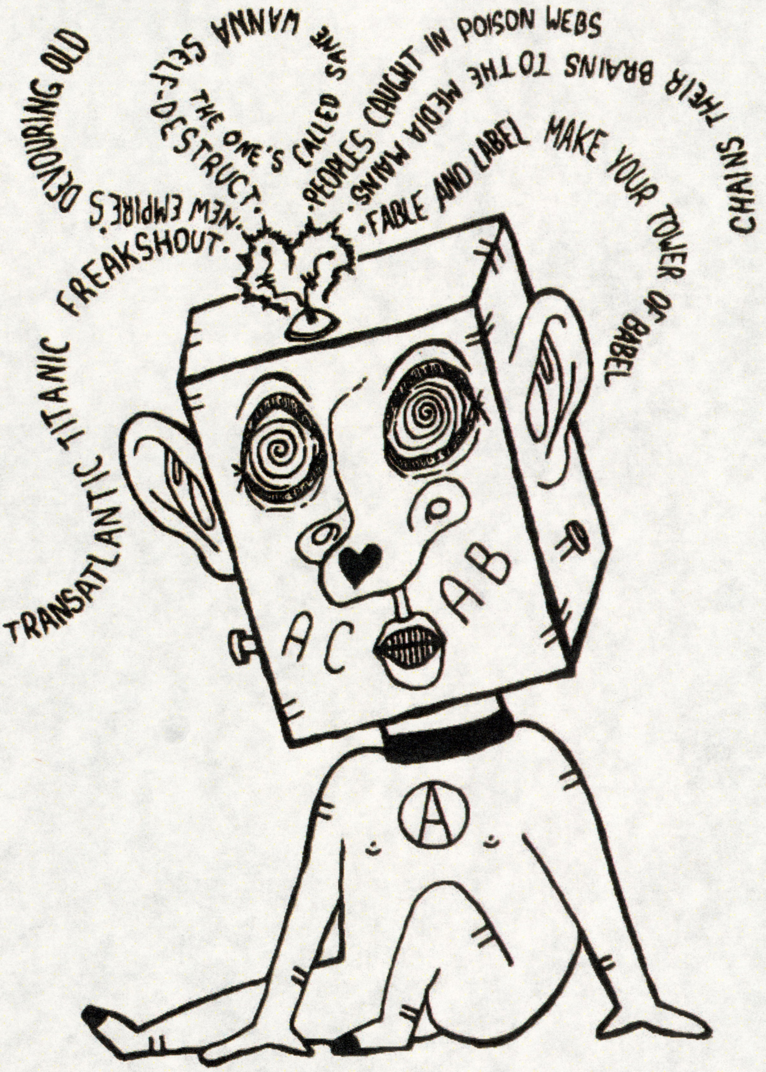
for radicals to stay out of the clutches of the various window integrity task forces. Mobilizing people to get downtown involves a lot of car transport into those cameras too. And getting out safely requires walking quite a ways.

There's also something to consider regarding multiplicity. Downtown lends itself to one big crowd (again, barring actual thousands of people showing up). Let's do a little geometry. Say you have enough people to fill a 2×2 square (use whatever units you like here). The perimeter, also known as the area the police have to cover to surround you, is 8 (2×4). But if you subdivide that square into four 1×1 squares, or even two 1x2s, your perimeter goes up to 16 or 12 respectively. Stretch the cops thin. **The gaps in their lines are places into which our possibilities can expand.**

Last but certainly not least. Good on people taking material steps to separate Socialist Alternative and PSL from protests on the ground. It's been demonstrated here and in other cities how dangerous these groups are and how casually they treat proximity to the police. Keep fucking bullying.

***See you in the streets, solidarity forever.***
***- Anonymous***






***THE RADIO STATION ALWAYS PLAYS, THE SCHIZO KNOWS WELL THE RHYTHMS OF THE TIME. ENDLESS STREAMS OF DOOMSDAY PREACHERS COME KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR. DO YOU ANSWER THE CALL?***

# WHERE THERE'S A BIG TENT, THERE'S A FUCKING CIRCUS

**Submission from H.C. received on 07.13.22**

The last month or so has prompted some amount of critical discourse among the normally un-critical anarchists in this city. Two recent communiques posted on *Filler* have been a mixed bag – one instructive, the other less inspiring. One, "The City County Building is a Trap," offered a critique of the futility of anarchist mobilization toward public protest outside of the halls of power. It alludes to the simple fact that such matters laid before the dull functionaries of this political machine, who are not even in the building at the time of protest, are nothing but a demand made upon the state to restore our rights, mete out some form of justice, draft policy that allows the state to function with our seal of approval – the warm feeling that we made this happen by making our voices heard.

Change which can materially have an effect on our immiseration, however, is so rarely achieved that even the activists organizing these mass displays of protest and/or solidarity consider them entirely symbolic and ineffectual gestures that simply serve the purpose of making their voices heard (loosely quoting a local organizer of this coalition responding to this exact line of critique in the comments section of AbortionDefensePGH's social media site). Okay, well, your voice is heard. *What did it accomplish?*

If the answer is "nothing" then perhaps anarchists should do well to abandon these behaviors and their organizers in favor of something less controlled – some act of destructive sabotage that, even if nothing changes, refuses the hollow echoing of our frustrated voices pitifully begging for change from slick politicians.

One trend among participants in the mass gathering – illustrated in an anarchist organizer's recent reportback, "A Black Anarchist Perspective on the *Roe v Wade* Protest on June 24th" - has been an outspoken hostility toward moribund Marxist authoritarian groups such as SALT and the PSL, for their national-level party structures' complicity with silencing and perpetuating abuse and transphobic discrimination among their ranks. While scandalous and entirely believable, these organizations more plainly are worthy of critique for their constant opportunism, attempting to recruit well-intentioned and newly-radicalized people away from these vibrant, energizing (but remember, still entirely symbolic!) protests into the internal bureaucracy of their party organizations.

Were there not an ongoing narrative of the abusive and transphobic nature of groups like SALT and PSL, would our anarchist comrades be welcoming them with open arms into the big tent alongside progressives, nonprofit workers, liberal feminists and democratic party adherents? Why do our comrades seemingly have no issue organizing among members of the Maoist group "For The People" (in the form of the groups Abortion Defense PGH and Justice 4 Jim Rogers)?

Both groups are tied to Maoist organizationalism in similarly murky ways as any PSL, SALT or RevCom front group, but FTP whose fervent opposition to the abusive cult dynamics of other (read: at the moment NOT US!) Marxist organizations on the national level is done not out of a sense of altruism, but a clever branding of their struggle as "true", as representative of the safety of women or people of color whom must be defended from those whom

> ***"When under the big tent, the voices of the suburban racial justice democrat with a Ring camera, the wannabe Shining Path infant-boiler, the tech-startup girlboss, the meme-radicalized anti-civ anarchist, and the Marxist do-gooder pretending to memorize your pronouns are shouting in glorious unison at an empty civic office building. ——— They are all surrounded by armed police, being paid overtime by our Mayor, whom many of you are pretending you didn't vote for on the basis of his incredibly vague 'demilitarization' police reform agenda."***

must be defended from those discreet individuals known as abusers that dwell in OTHER Marxist organizations.

While I am hardly an organizationalist or a proponent of left unity, I feel that by parroting this line, we are simply acting as willing participants in a group like FTP's

political maneuvering to be the "most pure" party to lead the masses forward toward glory. We are stupidly mistaken if groups such as the PSL, SALT, the DSA and Maoist groups (the latter of whom largely end up becoming quasi-religious antisex purity cults or autocannibalizing left-zealot polycules) or anarchist ones such as the IWW, Food Not Bombs, your local insurrectionist cell, etc are not free from enacting harm or bigotry because of some political flaw in their structure or beliefs. The answers to this are far less easy to parse than can be achieved by shouting slogans at The Bads and posturing one's identity, beliefs or job experience as The Good, particularly attuned to sniffing out abusers hiding among our idyllic social and political cliques.

Perhaps we can move forward without trying to spot abusers, predators, TERFs, etc – whatever pejorative for The Bads applies – as if it is some preferable means of sidlining people or organizations (whose local chapters likely have nothing to do with or no real opinion on high-profile abuse scandals despite what their party line dictates) rather than understanding that our goals as anarchists are fundamentally hostile to theirs, and thus can be the point where we diverge on our own terms from their sad spectacles of bickering over who is morally pure enough to lead the march.

It is not unnecessary to state that the peril of anarchists involving themselves in mass actions and "big tent" displays of political outrage is that – at the end of the long day of activism – we can sit in our homes and delude ourselves that WE did a stupid, futile and symbolic action in a way somehow more politically reconcilable with our anti-society beliefs than did the sea of democrats, NGO deskjobbers, would-be Stasi and TERF yarnbombers doing the exact same activities, shouting the same slogans and assembling with the same list of demands. By stepping into these arenas of political mystification, anarchists resign ourselves to the terms of the state, and ally ourselves with those whose political activity seeks to reform or wrest control of the state and its power. When under the big tent, the voices of the suburban racial justice democrat with a Ring camera, the wannabe Shining

Path infant-boiler, the tech-startup girlboss, the meme-radicalized anti-civ anarchist, and the Marxist do-gooder pretending to memorize your pronouns are shouting in glorious unison at an empty civic office building. They are all surrounded by armed police, being paid overtime by our Mayor, whom many of you are pretending you didn't vote for on the basis of his incredibly vague "demilitarization" police reform agenda.

Anarchism is getting more dilute as a political and philosophical subculture with some semblance of conviction or even ability to articulate what one believes, and our participation among mass does nothing to serve our particular interest or affirm these beliefs and behaviors; the only reassurance that our involvement in such displays is not entirely a betrayal of our principles is the comforting pessimism that the pro-revolutionary Marxists attempting to fold us into their bids for power and control are entirely delusional.

To echo the earlier critique, Pittsburgh's scene of anarchism is still mired in the grinding agony of activist ritualism that precludes the possibility of something – if not more marvelous – than perhaps less legible to our enemies than the Good Work of activists. Truly, it is good that actual strategic discussion is being offered by anarchists in this city. Kudos to the writer who pushed back against the potential for yet another "protest season" (ugh!!) to grind to a halt in pointless rallies and miles-long marches and chanting the same old slogans.

We anarchists would perhaps do well to sidestep the displays of political theatre and, instead, break out into far more various, decentralized and subterranean actions that hope to strike at weak points in the smooth functioning of the state and capital.

To do less would allow the ossification of refusal into the meaningless aesthetics of rebellion, the high drama of sectarian deck-chair rearranging on a sinking ship of leftism, the sittings around and being lectured in intersections far behind police barricades manned by bored officers, and the joyless parade of those willing to let their displeasure be marshalled, politicked-to and bullhorn-chanted at. • • •

## a true story by asa

**"Why was the house wearing a dress?"**

Why? you asked, perplexed and bewildered at such a stupid question, unaware that this is a set up to a very commonly used format of joke telling, call and response

"Because the house was a **MODEL HOME.**"

You laugh, one singular laugh, the kind of laugh that is both sincere; from the diaphragm but also quickly cut off as you feel duped, here you thought I, nothing more than another poor shmuck, babbling my nonsense questions to the world. You are not prepared to deal with this sudden... discomfort – you enjoyed the joke, but you can't help but to feel that you, yourself, are the punchline. In your prejudices against the have-nots, you took one look at me, my toothless grin, my dirt-encrusted fingernails, my dirty, ragged clothes that have been worn so long they are more akin to a second skin.

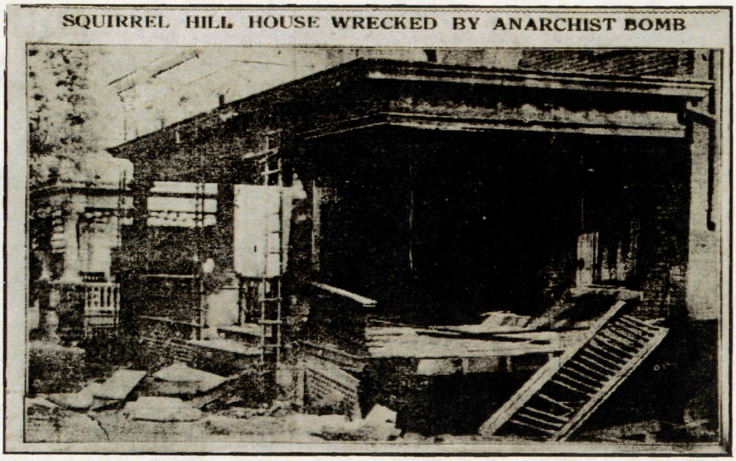
You look down at the sign I am flying, which you've only now taken the time to read, and your mouth goes slack, your eyes widen, your gut churns as you realize your fate. The greasy cardboard reads,

**"A joke for a smoke?"**

You have no smoke, you haven't bought a pack in nearly eleven months. You stutter, and manage to choke out the horrific truth, that you can not live up to your end of the bargain.

"Quite alright", I say flashing a grin, and then i open my mouth wider, wider, unhinge my jaw with both hands, my teeth knives, my eyes blacken, lock with yours, and I take your soul. I reset my jaw, Let out a beltch, and then pick up my cardboard sign, gently straightening it out – I always crave a cigarette after a big meal.

**June 2, 1919**... *5437 Aylesboro Avenue, the home of Pittsburgh Plate Glass official BJ Cassady.*




**The force of the blast was so powerful that it shattered the windows of every house on the block.** The home of Cassady's next door neighbor, U.S. District Judge WHS Thompson, sustained serious damage as well.

Moments later, seven miles away in Sheraden, another bomb devastates Glasgow Street. This one was likely intended for W.W. Sibray, delivered as an act of retaliation for the immigration inspector's role in the deportation of "alien anarchists" across Western Pennsylvania.

There were at least eight more simultaneous bombings in cities across the country that night. The targets included prominent capitalists and politicians, including the U.S. attorney general, Mitchell Palmer. Several of the bombs employed over 25 pounds of dynamite.

As the smoke cleared from each blast site, the awestruck bystanders peering through the haze slowly found that there was more than just ash and debris raining down on the gathering crowd.

Against the grayscale of a city that hadn't seen the sun since the onset of the industrial revolution, the aftermath of such a blast might have felt frighteningly mundane... that is, of course, if it weren't for the vibrant din of pink now lacing the streets. Hundreds upon hundreds of pieces of satin pink paper were trilling in the wind, fluttering out for blocks in every direction like autumn leaves. The pamphlet was titled *Plain Words*,

***The powers that be must reckon that they will have to accept the fight they have provoked.*** *A time has come when the social question's solution can be delayed no longer[...]*

*We have been dreaming of freedom, we have talked of liberty. We have aspired to a better world and you jailed us, you clubbed us, you deported us, you murdered us whenever you could. We are not many, perhaps more than you dream of though, and all are determined to fight to the last, till a man remains buried in your Bastilles, till a hostage of the working class is left to the tortures of your police system, and will never rest until your fall is complete, and the laboring masses have taken possession of all that rightly belongs to them.*

*There will be bloodshed; we will not dodge; there will have to be murder: we will kill, because it is necessary; there will have to be destruction; we will destroy to rid the world of your tyrannical institutions.*

*We are ready to do anything and everything to suppress the capitalist class; just as you are doing anything and everything to suppress the proletarian revolution. Our mutual position is pretty clear. What has been done by us so far is only a warning that there are friends of popular liberties still living.*

*Only now we are getting into the fight; and you will have a chance to see what liberty-loving people can do. We know how we stand with you and know how to take care of ourselves.* ***Besides, you will never get all of us, and we multiply nowadays.***

*Long live social revolution! Down with tyranny!*

***- The Anarchist Fighters***

In 1919, a group of Italian anarchist immigrants set up a printer (allegedly in a Bloomfield basement) and put Plain Words to hot pink paper. Over a century later, distro kids are still impressed by what the "Galleanists" had to of celebrated as *the most bomb fuckin' zine release party of all time.*

***Now that's distroism.***

***~ bent***

# NOISE COMPLAINT #1

*A Pittsburgh DIY History Column*

# ROTHKO

**An Introduction to the Column || An Interview with Rothko House**

## An Introduction to the Column

A while back, a friend of the *Filler* crew dropped by Mercury House with an old zine from the early 1990's. Our homie had been going through this musty milkcrate of punk memorabilia they'd been gifted when suddenly a familiar return address caught their eye — our fucking address! Wait what the fuck?!

Turns out that *Filler* Distro wasn't the first anarchist project to be run out of Mercury House… nor were we the second, or even the third (and turns out the same was also true for Venus House, our sibling house!) For almost two decades, our house was handed down from generation to generation, functioning as a distro HQ, house venue, community garden, and probably a bunch of other shit for all we know!

We're still tryna connect with the OGs who might know more about our home's story, but what we do know is that sometime in the late-2000s or early-2010s the intergenerational collective house chain was broken.

When we first moved in back in 2017, all our neighbors told us the spot had been vacant for a number of years, which explained the cheap rent. I remember clearing out some knotweed from the yard and discovering the remnants of a fire pit, a chicken coop, and a bike rack. I remember thinking, "huh, that's kinda cool" and moving on. Little did I know this discovery was the beginning of my career in Punk Archaeology.

Anyways, this dive into my own collective house's history gave me the idea to start a new *Filler* column that's aimed at preserving some intergenerational punk house history. The idea for the column is that every new edition of "Noise Complaint" will open with a brief update on my dive into Mercury House history, followed by an interview with someone from a DIY collective house. I'll be asking the same questions in each installment of the column.

For this first installment of Haus History Hour, I sat down with Josh from Rothko House.

## An Interview with Rothko House

Rothko House only existed for about a year, but they seriously made the most of their time as a DIY house. They booked acts from all over the city, hosted up touring bands, and were sometimes even throwing several shows a week. So it's no surprise that Rothko House quickly built up something of a reputation for routinely booking some of the best house gigs in the city.

Pittsburgh is sorta notorious for being a city that is heavily segregated—racially, culturally, politically. You'll often hear people say shit like "nobody crosses bridges." And as much as it sucks, a lot of house venues (especially in Oakland) really won't put in the work to open up their spaces to performers outside of their own tightly-knit scene. But part of what really caught our attention about the Rothko crew

wasn't just the quantity of shows they'd been booking, but the *quality*. The lineups from one show to the next, or sometimes even from one act to the next, could vary wildly at times. And the variety bills never felt forced.

The first show that the *Filler* crew set up our distro at was the WIILLD // YUURUSU // ÚZKOST // DEATH INSURANCE // BABYGHOST. We decided to go since the homies in ÚZKOST (the flagship of Pittsburgh anti-fascist black metal) were playing and we had recently done a limited run of cassette tapes for them. I remember being thrown off by the flyer for the gig at first — I didn't expect to recognize most of the other acts, it was a DIY show after all, but I also didn't expect the flyer to look like it was for a straight up rave. But yo it kinda was a rave, and somehow having a black metal band on the bill fucking *worked*.

The other artists were electronic, sure, but they were heavy as hell, and that crowd was there for it! The kids who turned out went fucking hard for every set, which just goes to show how smart the Rothko crew was when it came to organizing mixed-genre bills. They aren't just fronting like they're interested in opening up space for different scenes, they *actually* know their shit.

Anyways, after weeks of back-and-forth (*Filler* will never be a punctual project, and we greatly appreciate the patience!), Josh from the Rothko crew was cool enough to take some time to sit down with me and some of the *Filler* crew and talk about his time at Rothko House.

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***Filler:** What's good, who are you, what's the house called? Can you tell us a bit about life in the house?*

**Josh:** Hey I'm Josh, and we were Rothko. Very much a mess, a group of friends putting on shows we thought were cool. The house had been loosely affiliated with Pitt Radio for some years, and at first all four of us were Pitt students, but it wasn't, like, tied to the University in any way or anything like that. We never really thought of the house as a student thing. I ended up dropping out anyway.

***F:** How long has the house been a thing? What are some of the eras of the house that you know about? Do you know how many names its had, or how many times its been passed down?*

**J:** I know the spot has been around for a few years, formerly called Bushnell and Lavender Town, but I personally don't know too much about the history before that.

***F:** How did you get involved? What made you want to?*

**J:** Nate and I (Josh) were both at Pitt Radio and the opportunity to live at a show house was made available in the Spring of 2021, so it was a no brainer for both of us. I was in Ohio, covid was happening, I was debating going to school. The main reason to go to Pitt and be in school was to be in the city and do music.

There were 4 of us living there around the time 'shnell became Rothko. But the reality of the situation was we sorta got conned into it. The person who inherited the house turned out to be a piece of shit and we had to kick him out.

It was super hard to figure that situation out. It was my first year being like, living in the world, running a show house, and I had to learn on the fly - learning what morals I had, learning what I felt responsible for. And that sort of conflict is especially hard, because you're

living with the conflict, you see that person every day, so you really have to live with whatever actions you resolve to take. It was a little tough with the rent situation after that.

I was getting paid to go to school up until I dropped out, and it took a while to get work lined up. I was, you know, door-dashing, selling all my records... so as time went on, having one less person paying rent was rough for a minute, but it needed to happen.

It was definitely a turning point for, I guess, Rothko House as a project. Nate and I are both sorta bipolar introverts, and we were still new to everything. At first we ended up hanging back and let that guy we ended up kicking out run things, and so there were some subpar shows for a while. But after we moved to kick that person out, Nate and I were both in a place where we knew what we wanted to do. We booked everything from then on as a team.

We both listen to a lot of music and it's the only thing we care about. so we wanted variety because we listen to a lot, but we also wanted to book shows that felt important to us. We also had a solid time collaborating on the merch art. Nate had the idea of using the basement door, I did the calligraphy for the ROTHKO gothic font shit, and we made a linocut. But yeah, we booked shows like several times a week.

When it's all you really care about, it's like *the thing you do*, you know?

**F:** How'd the name come about?
*(Rothko House was, of course, named for Mark Rothko. Rothko is best known for his artistic and political contributions to the Abstract Expressionist and Surrealist movements, and to the the early socialist and anarchist movements).*

**J:** Yea the Bushnell people had graduated or something and were all moving out so we needed a new name. Nate hit the chat and suggested Rothko and I was down with it, mostly because it sounded cool to be honest. I don't know much about the guy, but I'd seen some of his paintings and definitely vibed with it — a lot of his art feels kinda spiteful, which is cool. Nate knows a lot more about that side of things.

***F:** What's one bit of advice you wish you had heard before getting into running a house venue?*

**J:** I'm glad I went in clueless. I would have probably developed a space I wouldn't have enjoyed if I had a clue how this stuff actually works, or if I tried following some formal way of doing things. I knew the basics and had been to enough shows to pick up on what to do. We didn't really need to be all that organized to get everything done, and after doing it enough we built a solid rhythm to it.

For the most part, we kept the house and the basement separate so we wouldn't have to worry about randos wandering around. Our friends would take turns doing door, basement door that is since the actual doors to the house were locked, but yeah doing door basically involved hanging out in the lot by the staircase, collecting cash for the bands, and answering questions. It was very important to us to pay the bands well. We actually managed to pay each band on the NECRO HEADS gig $300 *each* off a $10 door.

> **"UNLESS YOU'RE TOTALLY DEVOTED TO RUNNING THE VENUE, DON'T DO IT.**
>
> **BE READY FOR IT TO BE YOUR LIFE IF YOU WANNA DO IT… BECAUSE IT WILL BE."**

We managed to pull off what we wanted to do in a year before burning out. The only noise complaint we got was at the last show, which was all-nighter anyway so that wasn't surprising.

*F: Did you design your own flyers? How'd you get such consistent turnouts?*

**J:** Nah, we collaborated with friends or artists we liked though, which worked out really well and a lot of cool art came out of it. Everything's run through Instagram these days, so most of our focus was on there.

Like I hate having everything run through my phone or being online in general, but turnout was pretty consistently good and I guess that was cos we ran an active instagram. And paying the bands was *the* priority. Since we

were a house venue, a lot of people would need to DM us for the address. We really only occasionally flyered, and even then the flyers would have "DM for address" on them. I like flyering though, I actually do think it's still important to go flyering.

***F:*** *Any wild stories? Lessons learned?*

**J:** Lessons learned? Dont be a dick! If you're real nice, even though your music may be subpar, I'm booking you over the chode on Run for Cover Records.

Unless you're totally devoted to running the venue, don't do it. It should probably be your life if you wanna do it, in fact *be ready* for it to be your life, because it will be. It would suck to have no one turn out, or for bands not to get paid—you have responsibilities. But as far as shows go, the people who came out were generally chill. The only times we ever had to resolve problems on the spot was when there was a drunkpunk going around starting fights. Dude was on some punker-than-thou shit and pulled a knife or something, I don't know, we basically just stepped in and separated the groups and then made sure to keep them apart for the rest of the night.

In hindsight, I wish we could've made Rothko a space in general, where friends dropped in whenever because they knew it was a space where you could like share a meal or just chill without needing to make plans in advance. We'd talked about the idea, but never really made it a thing.

***F:*** *What's next for the Rothko House? Is a new generation moving in? What's next for you?*

**J:** Not sure. We tried to hand it off to some people who would run shows, but we ran into some shit with the management company—it seems like they don't really want this kinda stuff going on. The thing was that the house wasn't even listed anywhere, but the landlord still had people touring it all the time, so clearly they were trying to rent to uh, different people, not us. Eventually we figured out how to redirect anyone who asked about the house to where they could contact management directly, so we'll just have to wait and see if anyone gets it. We feel bad about it because we were kinda juggling whether or not we felt responsible for passing the house down, and we tried our best, but there were just so many blocks and we're also just like, I don't know, some self-absorbed 20-year-olds.

***F:*** *Maybe there could've been a way to act like you were gonna renew, but then stay that someone who "lived here but wasn't on the lease last time wants to sign this time" and sorta sneak them in?*

**J:** Yeah, that could maybe work. The thing was there was also no one we really knew all that well who seemed seriously interested in taking over, to the point that they'd like say they already lived here.

***F:*** *For sure. Anyways yeah, so what's next for you?*

J: Personally, I'm probably going to start focusing on playing with my bands GUNDY and WRETCHED FIXATION.

**gundy.bandcamp.com**

***F:*** *What do you want this generation of the house to be remembered for?*

**J:** How I want this iteration to be remembered? For rocking the free wave deep state.

***F:*** **Laughs... because what the fuck does that mean? Should I ask? Ah shit, too late. Kinda has "lights out, guerrilla radio, turn that shit up!" vibes, right? Fuck it, I'll just write that down, publish it, and play along like I'm hip.**

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